



Dual Enrollment

What is the dual enrollment program?

The dual enrollment program is an acceleration mechanism that allows an eligible high school or home education student to enroll in a postsecondary course creditable toward high school completion and an associate or baccalaureate degree or career certificate.¹ Upon successful completion of a dual enrollment course, the student simultaneously receives high school and college, university, or career certificate credit. Dual enrollment may serve to shorten the time and money necessary for a student to complete the requirements for a postsecondary degree.² Eligible students are permitted to enroll in dual enrollment courses conducted during and after school hours and during the summer term.³ Ten of Florida's 11 public universities and 28 Florida College System (FCS) institutions participate in dual enrollment. In FY 2008-09, 35,679 high school students were dually enrolled at a Florida college and 2,054 high school students were dually enrolled at a state university.⁴

Early admission is a form of dual enrollment for college-level or career coursework. Eligible secondary students enroll on a full-time basis in a postsecondary institution or career center in courses that are creditable toward the high school diploma and associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or career certificate.⁵ To participate in career early admission, students must have completed at least six semesters of full-time secondary enrollment, including studies undertaken in the ninth grade.⁶ In the 2008-09 academic year, 78 students participated in early admission at a state university and 1,395 students participated in early admission at a FCS institution.⁷

Who is eligible to enroll as a dual enrollment student in a postsecondary course?

An eligible student is one who is enrolled in a Florida public secondary school or a Florida private secondary school conducting a secondary curriculum that satisfies the statutory high school graduation requirements.⁸

¹ Section 1007.271(1), F.S.

² Florida Department of Education, *Dual Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions*, at 2 and 3, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/pdf/dualenrollfaqs.pdf> (last visited July 23, 2010).

³ Section 1007.271(2), F.S.

⁴ Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Government Program Summaries, *Acceleration Programs*, May 4, 2010, available at <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/profiles/2028/> (last visited July 23, 2010) [hereinafter *OPPAGA Acceleration Programs*].

⁵ Section 1007.271(7) and (8), F.S.

⁶ Section 1007.271(8), F.S.

⁷ *OPPAGA Acceleration Programs*, *supra* note 4.

⁸ Section 1007.271(2), F.S.; see also ss. 1002.42(2) and 1003.43, F.S. Section 1007.271(2), F.S., references the required curriculum with regard to the courses required for high school graduation under s. 1003.43, F.S., which applies to students entering high school before the 2007-08 academic year. Section 1003.428, F.S., applies to

Students must demonstrate readiness for college-level or career-level coursework. The student must have a 3.0 unweighted grade point average (GPA) for enrollment in college-level courses and a 2.0 unweighted GPA for enrollment in career certificate courses. If enrolling in a college credit course, students must demonstrate adequate pre-collegiate preparation on a basic computation and communication skills assessment through the common placement examination. Exceptions to the required GPAs may be granted if the participating educational entities agree and the terms of such agreement are contained in the dual enrollment interinstitutional articulation agreement. FCS institutions may establish additional admissions criteria to ensure student readiness for postsecondary instruction, but such requirements may not arbitrarily prohibit students who have demonstrated the ability to master advanced courses.⁹

To participate in the dual enrollment program, an eligible home education student must provide proof of enrollment in a home education program and be responsible for his or her own instructional materials and transportation unless provided for otherwise.¹⁰

How is the dual enrollment program coordinated between the secondary and postsecondary educational institutions?

FCS institutions and school districts are required, and state universities are encouraged, to jointly develop and implement interinstitutional articulation agreements for their dual enrollment programs.¹¹ Additionally, an independent college or university which is located and chartered in Florida may participate in the dual enrollment or early admission program if the school is not-for-profit, is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, and confers degrees.¹² The interinstitutional articulation agreement must be completed before high school registration for the fall term and must include, but is not limited to, the following components:

The available dual enrollment courses and programs.¹³

The type of high school credit earned for completion of a dual enrollment course.¹⁴

Student eligibility criteria.¹⁵

Each institution's responsibilities for student screening and performance monitoring, program costs including instructional materials, and student transportation.¹⁶

students who entered high school in the 2007-08 academic year and thereafter and s. 1003.429, F.S., applies to students entering high school in the 2006-07 academic year and thereafter.

⁹ Section 1007.271(3), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1007.271(10)(a)1. and 2., F.S.

¹¹ Section 1007.235(1), F.S.

¹² Sections 1007.235(6) and 1011.62(1)(i), F.S.

¹³ Section 1007.235(2)(b)1., F.S. Career centers, Florida College System (FCS) institutions, and state universities must delineate courses and programs for dually enrolled home education students. Courses and programs may be added, revised, or deleted at any time. Section 1007.271(10)(b)1., F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1007.235(2)(b)4., F.S.

¹⁵ Section 1007.235(2)(b)6., F.S. Career centers, FCS institutions, and state universities must identify eligibility criteria for home education student participation, not to exceed those required of other dually enrolled students. Section 1007.271(10)(b)2., F.S.

¹⁶ Section 1007.235(2)(b)7., 9., and 10., F.S.

What courses are available for dual enrollment?

The Department of Education (DOE) must approve any postsecondary course for inclusion in the dual enrollment program that is contained within the Statewide Course Numbering System. College-preparatory and other forms of precollegiate instruction, physical education and other courses that focus on the physical execution of a skill, may not be approved, but must be evaluated individually for potential inclusion in the dual enrollment program.¹⁷ The Commissioner of Education may approve dual enrollment agreements for limited course offerings that have statewide appeal. Such programs must be limited to a single site with multiple county participation.¹⁸

What level of credit is awarded for dual enrollment?

The commissioner appoints faculty committees representing public school, FCS institution, and university faculties to identify postsecondary courses that meet the high school graduation requirements. These committees also establish postsecondary and high school credit equivalencies for each identified course. The credit equivalencies must be based on comparable course content and not on seat time traditionally allocated for such courses in high school.¹⁹

The commissioner provides the committees' credit equivalency recommendations to the State Board of Education for its consideration.²⁰ The state board issues an approved list of dual enrollment courses that meet high school graduation requirements. The list also indicates the level of credit that must be awarded once the course has successfully been completed. The most recently approved list took effect in May 2010 and is published on DOE's website.²¹ In FY 2008-09, high school students earned 338,230 credit hours and 9,369 credit hour equivalencies (career and technical programs) through Florida College System dual enrollment programs.²²

Beginning with students entering grade nine in the 2006-07 academic year, school districts and FCS institutions must weigh dual enrollment courses the same as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced International Certificate of Education courses when calculating GPAs.²³

Beginning with students admitted for Summer Semester 2009, dual enrollment courses that meet core state university admission requirements in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, or specified Foreign Languages must receive the same weighting as

¹⁷Section 1007.271(11), F.S.; *see also* Florida Department of Education, *2010-2011 Dual Enrollment Course – High School Subject Area Equivalency List*, effective May 2010, at 1, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/pdf/DEList.pdf>.

¹⁸Section 1007.271(17), F.S.

¹⁹Section 1007.271(6), F.S. Section 1007.271(6), F.S., references the required curriculum with regard to the courses required for high school graduation under s. 1003.43, F.S., which applies to students entering high school before the 2007-08 academic year. Section 1003.428, F.S., applies to students who entered high school in the 2007-08 academic year and thereafter and s. 1003.429, F.S., applies to students entering high school in the 2006-07 academic year and thereafter.

²⁰*Id.*

²¹*See* Florida Department of Education, *2010-2011 Dual Enrollment Course – High School Subject Area Equivalency List*, effective May 2010, at 1, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/pdf/DEList.pdf>.

²²*OPPGA Acceleration Programs*, *supra* note 4.

²³Section 1007.271(16), F.S.

Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced International Certificate of Education courses in the calculation of the high school GPA used for state university admission decisions.²⁴

For purposes of calculating the GPA to be used when determining initial eligibility for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, DOE is directed to assign additional weights for dual enrollment courses.²⁵

How does a secondary student learn about dual enrollment?

Each district school board is required to inform all secondary students of dual enrollment as an educational option and mechanism for acceleration. Specifically, students must be provided with information on the eligibility criteria, the option for taking dual enrollment courses beyond the regular school year, and the minimum academic credits required for graduation.²⁶ Additionally, a DOE-developed statement must be provided to students, prior to enrollment in a dual enrollment course, which indicates whether the dual enrollment course articulates as an elective or a general education course into a postsecondary education certificate or degree program.²⁷

Middle school students must complete a one-semester course in career and education planning in either seventh or eighth grade. Course instruction must result in the creation of a personalized academic and career plan for each student.²⁸ The personalized academic and career plan must inform students of opportunities through which a high school student can earn college credit including Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), dual enrollment, career academy courses, and programs that lead to national industry certification.²⁹

Students choosing the 24-credit or the accelerated 18-credit college or career preparatory graduation options³⁰ must be advised of the availability of IB, AICE, AP, dual enrollment courses, career academy courses, and courses that lead to national industry certification courses, as well as the availability of course offerings through virtual instruction. Beginning with the 2011-12 academic year, each high school must offer an IB Program, AICE Program, or a combination of at least four courses in AP or dual enrollment, including one course each in English, mathematics, science, and social studies.³¹

²⁴ State University System of Florida, Board of Governors Regulation 6.006(5), Acceleration Mechanisms, (March 2008), *available at*

http://www.flbog.org/documents_regulations/regulations/6.006%20Acceleration%20Mechanisms.pdf.

²⁵ Section 1009.531(3)(b), F.S.

²⁶ Section 1007.271(5), F.S.

²⁷ Section 1007.271(12), F.S.

²⁸ Section 1003.4156(1)(a)5., F.S.

²⁹ Section 2, ch. 2010-22, L.O.F., *amending* s. 1003.4156(1)(a)5., F.S.; *see* Articulated Acceleration Mechanisms and Career and Professional Academies Fact Sheets.

³⁰ Section 1003.429(1)(b) and (c), F.S., *as amended by* s. 4, ch. 2010-22, L.O.F.

³¹ Section 5, ch. 2010-22, L.O.F., *codified at* s. 1003.4295, F.S.

What are the provisions for joint dual enrollment and advanced placement instruction?

AP³² instruction may be conducted within dual enrollment courses. Such courses must be incorporated within and are subject to the provisions of the district interinstitutional articulation agreement and must integrate the course structure recommended by the College Board and the structure that corresponds to the common course number.³³ The student may choose to receive postsecondary credit for dual enrollment or advanced placement, but not both. Postsecondary credit may be earned by an AP student only when he or she scores at least a three on the five-point scale for the Advanced Placement Exam.³⁴

What is the cost to the student to participate in dual enrollment?

Students are not required to pay registration, tuition, or lab fees for dual enrollment courses taken at a public postsecondary career center, FCS institution, or state university.³⁵ Instructional materials must be provided to dual enrollment students from Florida public high schools free of charge.³⁶ Private school and home education students are responsible for their instructional materials and transportation. However, a FCS institution is not prohibited from providing instructional materials at no cost to a home education student or student from a private school.³⁷ The exemption from payment of fees does not apply to students dually enrolled in an eligible independent postsecondary institution.³⁸

How is dual enrollment funded?

Funding for dual enrollment programs is provided to school districts through the Florida Education Finance Program. Students who enroll in these programs are included in their school districts' full-time equivalent (FTE) student count and districts receive allocations based on their FTE enrollment. Students who participate in dual enrollment programs with Florida's FCS institutions and state universities are also included in the FCS institution or universities' FTE count for funding purposes.³⁹

³² The Advanced Placement Program is a system of advanced academic courses administered by the College Board. Section 1007.27(6), F.S. The program consists of over 38 college-level courses and exams in 23 subject areas ranging from art to statistics. Florida Department of Education, *2009-2010 Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook*, at 66 (2009), available at http://files.facts.usf.edu/pdfDocuments/manuals/Handbook_0910.pdf.

³³ Section 1007.272(1), F.S.

³⁴ Section 1007.272(3), F.S.

³⁵ Section 1009.25(2)(a), F.S.

³⁶ Section 1002.20(19)(d), F.S.; s. 1007.271(14), F.S.

³⁷ Section 1007.271(10)(a)2. and (14), F.S.

³⁸ Section 1011.62(1)(i), F.S.

³⁹ Sections 1009.25(2)(a) and 1011.62(1)(i), F.S.

Where can I get additional information?

Florida Department of Education

Office of Articulation

(850) 245-0427

<http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/>

Florida Department of Education

Division of Florida Colleges

(850) 245-0407

<http://www.fldoe.org/cc/>

Florida House of Representatives

Education Committee

(850) 488-7451

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>